



Heather Murtagh/Daily Journal

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South City seniors make valentines for the troops

By Heather Murtagh

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With a red construction paper heart before her, Emma Ordonez pointed to the various places she wanted colorful hearts to be glued.

Activity Assistant Lita Lozano obliged, adding her own suggestions as the women worked together using glue sticks, stickers, paper doilies and markers to create valentines. It was part of a bigger project at the South San Francisco Adult Day Program yesterday creating festive notes to be sent to the National Guard 184th Infantry Regiment, out of Northern California, which is currently serving in Iraq. The idea came after a staffer from Assemblyman Jerry Hill's office e-mailed with the idea.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Program Coordinator Laura Gigi, who noted larger holidays often inspire people to think of the troops. Smaller holidays, like Valentine's Day, do not always create the same enthusiasm.

For Hill, the cards are a chance to ensure those serving are reminded of local appreciation.

"It's just a small way to express our gratitude and appreciation for sacrifices they're making for all of us," he said.

Work began at 9 a.m. yesterday. However, messages of support began to be gathered earlier during classes where participants could not attend the crafty activity.

Notes ranged from classics like “roses are red” to more direct messages such as “I will keep you in my prayers” and “come home safe.”

One table debated various niceties to include as they decorated holiday-themed cards. Hill questioned whether he had the artistic ability to create such cards. At the urging of Theresa Sevilla and Mary Crans, he gave it a go.

After an hour, numerous hand-written notes were stacked throughout the room. The notes will be sent to Iraq this week.

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